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REVIEW OF PROF. SMITH'S SELECT DISCOURSES—NO. II.

"FUNCTIONS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM."

IN undertaking a review of Dr. Smith's Lectures, our sole object is truth. We have no personal feelings whatever to gratify. On the contrary, we highly respect the author as a man of liberal views and amiable character, an acute metaphysician, and one of the most ingenious and subtle reasoners of the day. It is because we respect his talents that we feel desirous of bringing his opinions to the bar of criticism, of exposing his errors, both of logic and fact, so far as we are able, and thus neutralize his objections to what we regard as well-established and important physiological doctrines.

We have already seen (No. I.) that Dr. S. lays it down as a general principle, that "the effect which any organ produces in the body, is in the compound ratio of its relative bulk and the quantity of aeriated blood circulating through it." He begins the present lecture, by conceding that "the brain is the material instrument of thought." Should we not then infer, that the energy of thought, in other words mental activity, would be proportioned to the size of the brain, and the quantity of blood sent to it, within normal limits? But we have shown that under such circumstances, Dr. S. maintains, that a man is only rendered more *passionate*, while his rational faculties are weakened. Where "the power of the brain is very great," he remarks, "persons are distinguished by many of the characteristics of children; they are restless, captious, irascible, and violent—easily diverted from one object to another, pursue feathers and shadows as keenly as the most substantial game, are incapable of gratitude, of friendship knowing only the name, so credulous as to be duped by every designing knave," &c. It seems to us strange indeed, that after admitting the brain to be the instrument of thought, Dr. S. should deny that increased "power" or activity of the instrument should lead to a corresponding increase of mental energy; but on the contrary maintain that such activity should actually cause mental imbecility and second childhood. Moreover, we have seen that Dr. S. attributes mental precocity in children, to a "feeble circulation in the brain;" "for," says he, "the circulation in the brain being thereby rendered feeble, that viscus, as in the adult, is more upon a par with the rest of the system. Should the health of such children be restored, with their returning vigor the brain resumes its wonted superiority, and *quickly destroys their pretensions to unusual intellectual powers*," But how is this? "The brain," says Dr. S., "is the material instrument of thought;" and

again, "the function of a part, whatsoever that function may be, is always performed with a vigor proportioned to its bulk, and the greater or less supply of aeriated blood which it may receive," &c. But here, it would seem, is one exception, at least—the mental activity is increased, but the instrument of thought, the brain, receives a diminished quantity of blood; but when the health is restored, and the brain receives a larger supply of the sanguineous fluid, then the child loses his intellectual superiority, and becomes like other children! The only cases in which Dr. S., in his first lecture, allowed that great mental activity, or "a strong mind," could exist, were those in which a large liver co-existed with a large brain, but "such men are incapable," he remarks, "of enjoying present good, for fear of approaching evil;" and when "this temperament is exquisite, the unhappy objects are always on the verge of insanity." In another place, the author says that "excessive action in the lungs predisposes to insanity, and should this action, from any cause, be much augmented, *fatuity*, at least, is the inevitable consequence"! Here seems to be another singular fact; "the brain is the material instrument of thought," but if we seek for the cause of the derangement of the thoughts (i. e. of the mind), we must go to the liver or the lungs, instead of the instrument itself!

In conceding, moreover, that the brain is the organ of the mind, Dr. S., it appears to us, has sapped the very foundation on which he built his first lecture, on the "*diversities of the human character*;" for if the brain be, as he admits, the organ of the moral and intellectual powers, then we must look to it alone for the cause of the inclinations, propensities, affections, passions, moral qualities, and intellectual faculties; and it is not only absurd, but unphilosophical, to look to the lungs, liver, and sexual organs, to account for the diversities in human character. Has not nature constructed an apparatus for each function, and do we not know what are the functions of these organs? Dr. S. himself concedes the whole question in his remarks on the case of Charlotte Corde, who was beheaded by the guillotine. "It is reported," says our author, "that the executioner, after performing his office, held up the head and smote it on the cheek; whereupon *the eyes of the intrepid enthusiast evinced indignation, and a blush mantled on her countenance*." This story, Dr. S. adds, "does not appear altogether incredible"—to him. If mental emotions were manifested in this case, it is pretty certain that the liver, lungs, &c., had nothing to do with the phenomenon at least.

We believe that the time has arrived when no physiologist, deserving the name, will attempt to deduce from the temperaments, certain primitive, determinate, moral or intellectual powers. This was the doctrine of the ancients, of Haller, Pinel, Richerand, Cabanis, Foderi, Kust, Sprengel, &c.; and it is the doctrine of our author, though he attempts to throw over it an air of originality, by dropping the word *temperament* and substituting some equivalent phraseology. The most that can be said on this subject is, that the mode in which the intellectual and moral faculties manifest themselves, is modified by the temperament, and we shall prove this to be Dr. Smith's opinion, if we mistake not, before we have done with him. He has drawn, with a graphic pencil, several very pretty fancy

sketches, but the colors will be found to fade, and the skeletons to disappear, if we concentrate upon them even a few scattering rays of physiological truth. It is strange that Dr. S. should place the soul, or "the seat of life," in the *corpora olivaria*, instead of the stomach, liver, or lungs; since he attempts to show that these organs have more to do with its manifestations, than the brain itself.

In proof that the brain is the organ of the mind, Dr. S. refers, 1st, to consciousness; e. g., "when perplexed by some puzzling problem," he says, "we experience uneasiness in the head, *particularly, as I think, in its more anterior part.*" 2d, The effects of indisposition upon the brain and the mind. 3d. To the fact, that "when engaged in intense thought, *an unusual supply of blood is sent to the head*!" &c. Lastly, To the effect of the removal of a portion of the brain, a striking example of which is quoted.

Our author next proceeds to ask, "does the brain, in exercising its functions, as the material instrument of thought, act in large and undefined masses, or are minute and distinct portions of the *sensorium*, exclusively appropriated to particular processes and affections of the mind?" Believing phrenology to be "one of the creations of the fancy," in order "to point out the errors of its advocates," Dr. S. proceeds to state their views under the three following propositions, which he says are held by the phrenologists.

"First, That minute and distinct parts of the brain, termed 'organs,' are exclusively appropriated to particular affections and processes of the mind."

"Second, That these affections and processes will be intense and vigorous—*ceteris paribus*—as the size, technically, as the 'development' of these 'organ'."

"Third, That the 'organs' in question *are situated upon the surface of the brain*, and to that surface, and consequently to them, the skull is secondarily moulded, and with great accuracy."

Before proceeding to the author's objections to these three propositions, which, he says, embrace "the whole doctrine of phrenology," we take pleasure in quoting the following remarks on the subject of the "supposed tendency of phrenological speculations." "It has been alleged," says Dr. S., "that they weaken our convictions of human responsibility, while they strengthen the cause of materialism. Both charges appear to me groundless. The first I esteem untenable, allowing to the phrenologists, as all are bound to do, the benefit of their entire doctrine. With regard to the second of these imputations, it will, I think, appear, when we shall have been prepared for the inquiry, that the phrenologists, upon their own principles, are not only orthodox, but in discussions among themselves, are constrained, and with irresistible force, to oppose materialism. It appears to me certain, that the phrenological hypothesis involves nothing with regard to the constitution of man which, in reference to that constitution merely, may not be safely granted. The 'organs,' in fact, hold precisely the same relation to the mind, which is conceded to the ear, eye, &c. That is, they are definite structures, through whose agency alone particular ideas can enter the understanding. *The phrenologist may be a*

materialist, but he is not necessarily so, in virtue of his peculiar opinions. They require of him only the admission, in detail, of what every one acknowledges in the gross," &c. These remarks are honorable alike to the head and heart of the author, and their justice is equally manifest. As Dr. S. believes phrenology to be "sufficiently innocuous, except where the intellect is weak, or eccentric, or the understanding has not been enlightened by philosophy," it would be really asking too much of its advocates to furnish brains to its opposers, or first to correct their mental obliquities in order to neutralize their opposition. If they still persist in the absurd attempt to fasten the charge of materialism upon the believers in its doctrines, all we can do is to point to their own cranial conformation in proof of their incapacity to sit in judgment on a question involving the exercise of the intellectual faculties, in their medium strength and integrity.

Dr. Smith commences this lecture with a brief description of the structure of the brain, in order to prepare the way for sustaining the above three propositions. As this description was drawn up for a popular audience, we shall not criticize its correctness, though we must be permitted to doubt whether those, for whom it was intended, could obtain from it any very accurate notion of the subject. While he denies the exact correspondence of the convolutions or *external surface* of the brain, he admits that in the internal arrangement this is reversed, and that one hemisphere "is an exact counterpart of the other." It will appear, in the sequel, that this admission is all that the phrenologist would ask.

Dr. S. states that the "brain acquires its full size at a very early period of life—not later than the seventh year." This statement is repeated in different parts of the work, but no authority is given for the assertion. We have long been in the habit of making observations on this point, and we are satisfied that the head continues to increase in size, as a general rule, as long as the body does, but not in equal proportion. Every person knows that children of seven years of age do not require as large hats as adults; though this would not be a proper test of the bulk of the brain. Mr. Combe says, "the brain comes to maturity at different ages in different persons—seldom before the age of 20, and sometimes, according to Gall, not before forty. My own observations prove that it generally continues spontaneously to grow to 23 years of age, and sometimes to 28." In the 4th volume of the *Edinburgh Phrenological Journal*, is a very valuable communication from an experienced hat-maker in London, in which he remarks as follows: "In the first seven years the head attains an increase, from its birth, greater than in any seven years afterwards. It is needless for me to reply to the several objectors to phrenology, who assert that the brain attains its full dimensions at this period of life, and alleging the increase afterwards to be caused by thickness of skull, hair and integument. From seven years the head undergoes a gradual increase, until the period of maturity. The head I have always found to attain its full dimensions in accordance with the bodily frame. I fix the utmost limits my experience will allow, to the age of 25 years. The more general period of full attainment of size, is between 17 and 23." We could go on quoting authorities to the same effect, to

almost any extent. But it is unnecessary. We therefore demur to this important "*fact*" of Dr. S., and beg leave to refer it back to him for re-consideration.

Our author next proceeds to consider his three propositions, having "adjusted all preliminaries." As to the first, that "minute and distinct parts of the brain are exclusively appropriated to particular affections and processes of the mind," he thinks it sufficient to deny its truth, "until some evidence of a direct character is brought to sustain it," which," he says, "does not exist." Now we have no doubt whatever that Dr. S. is ignorant of the existence of any such testimony, for this appears on every page of his six lectures. Had he been acquainted with the great work of Dr. Gall on the "*Functions of the Brain*," in six volumes, translated by Dr. Winslow Lewis, of Boston, he would have hesitated before he ventured to make such an assertion. This great monument of the inductive philosophy—the grand store-house, from whence Spurzheim drew much of his riches, and all modern phrenological writers their resources—is replete with facts on this subject—facts, not collected to sustain a fore-gone conclusion, but those from which its immortal author deduced the important doctrines which Dr. S. in vain attempts to overthrow. Our author infers that because the brain is a "complex apparatus of tracts, chords and bands," it must be destined "to perform its functions as an associated whole." Now we should infer directly the contrary. If there was no complexity in its structure, no bands of connection and association between its different portions and organs, leading some of them to act in unison, as we know they do, and extending the influence of one, by anatomical connection, to others, we might be led to suppose that the brain acted as a whole; but it is certainly unphilosophical to believe that every part of so "complex an apparatus" is equally concerned in every act of the mind. We need not, however, here contest this point with Dr. S., for he virtually concedes it in the next sentence, by saying that "every portion of the brain is not, on all occasions, necessarily and equally employed." Now, as it is no doctrine of phrenology, that any organ, in any case, acts independently of every other, but only that every organ has a specific function, we feel half disposed to claim the author as an orthodox believer in the true doctrines, only that he labors under the disadvantage of not knowing what the true doctrines are!

Having stated that the interior of the brain is uniform in its arrangement in different persons, while the superficial convolutions are very irregular, Dr. S. thinks the inference should be, "that the former constitutes the efficient, and the latter the supplemental and unimportant portions of the sensorium; yet upon *those* [that?] the phrenologist lays no stress whatever, while *these* [the external convolutions] he designates as his 'organs.'" As this objection will again recur, when we come to the consideration of the third proposition, it must suffice for the present to deny, as we do, that phrenologists hold to any such thing—no one believes that the external and superficial convolutions compose the whole of the phrenological organs, but only that they are the surface of the organs. It is strange that any one should hazard the assertion that phrenologists "lay no stress upon the interior of the brain," since to them we are in-

debted for the true mode of unfolding its minute anatomy, and for the only intelligible description of its real structure.

"The cerebellum," says Dr. S., "whose sole office it is, according to the phrenologists, to engender sexual feeling, has, according to Mechel its relative magnitude at five or six months after birth, and its absolute bulk while we are yet little children. Here then we have by far the largest of the supposed 'organs,' being, indeed, a seventh or eighth of the whole brain, perfected, and dormant for eight or ten years. Now the facts in relation to the cerebellum are these: In new-born children, it is the least developed of all the cerebral parts, bearing a ratio to the brain as one to 13, 15, or 20. But in adults it is as 1 to 6, 7, or 8. It attains its full size between the ages of 18 and 26; generally, like the cerebrum, it continues to grow as long as the rest of the body. It is, for the most part, less in females than in males, and in old age frequently diminishes. It may sometimes be largely developed before puberty, but in such cases the sexual instinct is strongly manifested.* Castration arrests its development, if performed before the age of puberty; if afterwards, it does not destroy the instinct of propagation, nor the power of coition.—(Gall, Vol. III., p. 181.) "A certain proof," says Gall, "that the instinct of propagation depends on other conditions than the existence of the genital organs, and the seminal fluid."

The next objection of our author is, that "when a particular purpose is to be answered, we perceive a distinct contrivance more or less obviously adapted to the end in view;" as, e. g., the liver to secrete bile, the heart to circulate the blood, &c. But as we can discover nothing as to the function of the brain, from its anatomical structure, therefore it is unphilosophical to infer that it has any function, or, at least, to infer what that function is. But Dr. S. has already admitted that the "brain is the instrument of thought;" how did he learn this? Did he find it out from examining the brain *en masse*, or from a microscopic inspection of the white or gray matter? Can he tell a nerve of sensation from a nerve of motion, merely by inspecting its fibres? Could he pronounce, *a priori*, that the *optic* nerve was for seeing, or the *auditory* for hearing? "There is," says Dr. S., "sufficient evidence to induce the belief that the *anterior lobes of the cerebrum* are principally employed in carrying on those operations of the mind which require the exercise of the reasoning powers"! Did our author learn this from examining the structure of this part and comparing it with others? But we shall not pursue this objection.

Dr. S. knows full well that dissection does not reveal the functions of any organ, much less that of the brain, which appears merely as a mass of curiously convoluted matter; and yet he has admitted it to be "the instrument of thought." But if the function of the brain, as a whole, cannot be detected from its anatomical structure, much less ought we to expect to ascertain the functions of the individual organs by the same process. Dr. S. concludes his remarks upon the first proposition, by saying that "although what he has urged, proceeds upon analogy, a mode of reasoning never trust-worthy, and particularly unsafe when applied to

* Combe's Phrenology.

the nervous system, yet that, in the present instance, the relative force of his proof is *infinite, there being, as yet, nothing wherewith it can be opposed.*" It were a pity to disturb the self-complacency of our author, or to suggest a doubt whether his "proof" against phrenology is actually "infinite;" but we intend to accompany, with our running commentary, everything which looks like proof, or which is advanced as such, that the reader may be able to judge for himself.

We have thus passed in review every argument or suggestion of Prof. S. against the doctrine that the brain acts by separate portions, technically, and for convenience sake, termed "organs," and if we mistake not, nothing in the shape of proof has been discovered, even upon the author's own acknowledgment. He calls his reasoning "analogical," but at the same time admits that it is not "trust-worthy" nor "safe," and he expects this will suffice to overthrow the immense array of facts which go to prove the speciality of cerebral action. There, it is true, he gets over very easily, by denying that any such facts exist; but we are not disposed to allow much weight to reasoning *ab ignorantia*. The proof, it is true, would perhaps be "infinite," to one who had not made himself acquainted with but one side of the question; but we are not willing that the prejudice or the ignorance of any man, however distinguished, shall be the standard by which to judge of the merits of physiological or any other questions. Dr. S. is a follower of Dugald Stewart and the old school of metaphysicians, who go about to investigate the mind by attending to the subjects of their own consciousness; but we can judge pretty accurately what progress has been made in the science of mind, by true experiments and observations on their own powers and faculties, by examining the works of these writers on mental and intellectual philosophy—no two of them agreeing what the fundamental faculties of the mind are.

Dr. S. has not produced a *single fact* in opposition to the doctrine which he attempts to overthrow. He knows that the manner in which Gall built up the *system of nature*, we will not call it *his system*, was different from what his remarks would lead the reader to infer, viz.: that "it is a pure creation of the fancy," and that Gall's method was one of pure observation. He did not map out the brain into organs, and then go to work to collect facts, to substantiate these organs; but he studied the organization in connection with prominent traits of character, and thus discovered one organ after another. He never allowed himself to speculate or reason *a priori*; but when he met with a person remarkable for some particular faculty, he marked the cranial conformation, and especially all prominent local developments, and thus, after a comparison of hundreds, and in some instances thousands of cases, of a similar kind, he ventured to *locate* the portion of the brain, on which the extraordinary faculty depended. "The indefatigable industry of Gall," says Elliotson, "during the whole of a long life, constantly observing all persons he met with, and searching after all who were in any mental respect remarkable, travelling as he did to most of the prisons, mad-houses, and hospitals of the Continent; examining the habits and heads of brutes innumerable for comparison; and engaging M. Niklas, Dr. Spurzheim, and others, for a pecuniary consideration, to work under him, and examine points for him, in the way

of reading, dissecting, casting, moulding, and observing living persons, is astonishing; and the success and importance of his researches will, I am satisfied, ensure him a place among the greatest names of the human race, although, like every other great discoverer and benefactor, he has been loaded with ridicule and abuse."

CANDIDUS.

CASE OF POPLITEAL ANEURISM—OPERATION—CURE.

BY A. W. SHIPMAN, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

SOME TIME in the month of June, 1839, I was consulted by Nicholas Dyer, of Willet, Cortland County, N. Y., for a tumor in the ham of the right leg. The patient was about 30 years of age, of a good constitution, and a farmer by occupation. The history which he gave was, that in the month of April previous, he began to feel some pain and soreness in the ham, which he attributed to rheumatism, and accordingly used some domestic application, but without any effect. In May he discovered a tumor in the ham, for which he used some volatile liniment, but the swelling continued to increase, and he applied to Dr. Lyman Eldridge, of Cincinnati, who advised him as to the nature of his disease, and recommended him to consult me. At the time I first saw him, which was about the 10th of June, I found a tumor occupying the popliteal space, as large as an orange; it was tender on pressure, and pulsated pretty strongly, which ceased when pressure was made over the artery in the upper part of the thigh. The leg was flexed and could not be extended, the attempt giving him great pain. The tumor was hot, and the skin inflamed over it, as well as the calf of the leg. The foot was cedematous and numb. He suffered much pain day and night, and the tumor was rapidly increasing in size; it was difficult for him to walk. Under these circumstances I did not hesitate to advise him to submit to an operation as soon as possible.

This I performed on the 18th of June, with the assistance of Drs. Eldridge, McWhorter and Briggs, of Cincinnati, in the usual manner, at the upper third of the thigh. The artery was separated as little as possible from its surrounding connections, and one firm silk ligature applied. The pulsations in the tumor immediately ceased; it became reduced nearly one half in size; the leg and foot became cold and pale, with a slight increase in the numbness, which already affected the limb. Hot flannels were placed around the leg and foot, and bottles of hot water to the foot and sides of the leg. In a few hours re-action came on, with an increase of temperature in the leg and foot. No untoward symptoms came on to interrupt the cure. The ligature separated on the 20th day from the operation, the wound healed, the tumor in the ham was absorbed entirely in the course of a month, the leg could be extended perfectly, and its strength returned in a few months. He is now, and has been, as well as before the disease made its appearance.

**CASE OF ANEURISM AT THE BEND OF THE ARM FROM A
WOUND—OPERATION—CURE.**

A SON of Roswell Ackley, of Groton, Tompkins Co., N. Y., æt. 15, was wounded with the point of a penknife at the bend of the arm, about the first of October, 1840. There was a jet of blood to the distance of six feet at the time, but some of the bystanders made compression over the orifice and arrested the hemorrhage. A physician was called, who applied compresses and a bandage, and kept it tightly done up for a week, when the dressings were removed, and the boy began to make some use of his arm, when hemorrhage again recurred from the wound (which had not healed) to some considerable amount. It was again bandaged, but it continued to bleed from time to time. The whole of the forearm was swollen and discolored from infiltration of blood, and a tumor formed over the seat of the injury, which continued slowly to increase in size. About this time a *steam doctor* saw it and promised a speedy cure by the application of stimulants and frictions, which on trial only served to increase the size of the swelling, and augment the frequency of the hemorrhages. I was requested to visit him on the 28th of October. Found the forearm in a state of semiflexion, much swollen and discolored, and a tumor in the bend of the arm as large as the fist, with a small orifice (the original puncture unhealed) near the apex. There was no pulsation in it to be discovered, nor could I learn that there ever had been. No pulsation in the radial artery could be perceived at the wrist. The fingers were flexed and could not be easily extended.

With the assistance of Dr. Daniel Haven, I proceeded to the operation by cutting down upon the brachial artery about midway between the axilla and bend of the arm, at the edge of the biceps, and carefully separating the media nerve and disturbing as little as possible the surrounding connections; one firm silk ligature was applied; the wound closed by adhesive plaster, and the arm placed in a sling, carefully wrapped in cotton. No unpleasant symptoms followed. The ligature came away on the 14th day from the operation. A partial suppuration took place in the tumor, which with some coagula was discharged from the puncture. After this, frictions with stimulating liniments completely dispersed the remainder of the swelling. The arm and fingers became straight, and he speedily regained their strength and use.

How infinitely preferable this simple, yet efficient operation, to the method formerly pursued, and sometimes recommended in these days, of opening the aneurismal sac and searching for the wounded vessel, and tying both above and below the wound.

Cortlandville, N. Y., June 16th, 1841. A. W. SHIPMAN, M.D.
Pres. of Cortland Med. Soc'y.

UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE PRECEDING DELIVERY.

BY R. FOSTER WELLS, M.R.C.S.L.

At five o'clock in the afternoon of the 21st of the present month, at the request of a practitioner of midwifery, I visited Mrs. Croley, æt. 33, of

a nervous temperament, in the ninth month of her second pregnancy, who had been seized with hæmorrhage at four o'clock in the morning of the same day, which had continued unabated up to eleven o'clock, without the supervention of labor-pains, and had recurred about half an hour previous to my seeing her.

I found her lying in the usual obstetric position; the surface of the body covered with a cold perspiration; the pulse could scarcely be felt; the countenance was deathly pale; the eyes and mouth surrounded by a dark-colored areola; the pupils were dilated; and the tongue white and moist. The state of the bed did not indicate the loss of much blood. Upon examination I found the vagina filled with coagula, and the os uteri sufficiently dilated to admit the points of two fingers; the liquor amnii had been evacuated naturally in the early part of the day, and the vertex was presenting.

Under these circumstances I considered it impossible to attempt the operation of turning, and recommended the administration of the ergot in two-scruple doses every hour, until the mouth of the womb should be sufficiently dilated to admit the perforator, and warm brandy and water freely in the intervals. Upon seeing her again at seven o'clock two doses of the ergot in powder had been rejected, there was still an "oozing" of blood, and the general symptoms were much the same. A decoction of four drachms of ergot in six ounces of water was administered in two doses, with an interval of half an hour, with decided good effect.

At nine o'clock the uterus acting vigorously, and its mouth about two inches in diameter, the head was freely opened, and the labor speedily terminated by the crotchet. The child, a male, was found to be rather below the average size.

There was a gradual rallying from the time the first dose of the decoction was administered, which, with the exception of the hour immediately succeeding delivery, when the vital powers appeared to flag, has increased steadily, although slowly, up to the present time, without the occurrence of a single unfavorable symptom.

On the 17th of the present month this patient had slipped down stairs, but without hurting herself, and from that time till the period at which the hæmorrhage took place, had experienced a more than usual movement of the fœtus.

I think it cannot be doubted that the hæmorrhage in this case arose from a partial separation of the placenta and membranes.

There are indications in this both against, as well as for, the operation of craniotomy. On the one hand, the quantity of blood lost was not in itself alarming, the duration of labor not remarkably protracted, and, as the result proved, the child below the average size. But, on the other hand, there was no prospect that the uterine contractions, as induced by the ergot, would expel the child in time to save the mother; and the extreme urgency of the general symptoms called for the application of those means which promised the most speedy delivery, without considering the safety of the child.

The previous labor of this poor woman had been of three day's duration, and a very large dead child was the result.—*Lon. Lancet.*

CASE OF ABSCESS OF THE PROSTATE GLAND.

BY GIDEON ALGERNON MANTZELL, ESQ., LL.D. F.R.S.

A GENTLEMAN, aged 70, of a florid complexion and sanguine temperament, and of extremely regular habits, and who had occasionally been subject to cystic irritation from a slight enlargement of the prostate, fell down a flight of stone steps, injured the right knee, and received a slight concussion of the brain. On being brought home and put to bed he experienced a severe shivering, to relieve which a tin vessel of hot water was placed between his thighs, and almost instantly he felt a severe darting pain through the neck of the bladder. This was followed by a frequent and distressing desire to micturate, which ended in complete retention of urine. The following day (Jan. 11) a catheter was introduced with some difficulty and great suffering, and about a pint of urine was withdrawn. The operation was repeated in the evening. For five successive days the catheter was employed night and morning, but the difficulty of passing it increased, partly from the extreme irritability of the urethra, and partly from a progressive enlargement of the left lobe of the prostate, which so altered the normal course of the urinary canal, as to cause the instrument, in its passage to the bladder, to describe a considerable curve to the dextral side.

An eminent surgeon, who attended this case in consultation with me, advised an elastic catheter to be retained, but the suffering it induced was so great as to compel its removal after a few hours. An attempt to introduce a silver catheter in the usual manner failed, and occasioned the discharge of a considerable quantity of blood. In this dilemma five grains of acetate of morphia were mixed with half an ounce of spermaceti ointment, and the urethra was lubricated therewith by means of a Lougie. The catheter was again had recourse to, and care being taken to pass it so as to describe a curve towards the right, which the enlargement of the left lobe of the prostate rendered necessary, I succeeded in emptying the bladder with more facility, and with far less pain to the patient than on any previous occasion. This method was continued night and morning until Feb. 2, three weeks after the accident, when, upon introducing the instrument, I experienced some difficulty; and after the contents of the bladder were discharged, upon withdrawing the catheter, three or four ounces of pus flowed from the urethra. Two days afterwards the bladder recovered its powers, the obstruction was removed, and the patient has experienced no subsequent inconvenience.

The means employed to allay the irritability of the urethra in this case, simple as they were, merit the attention of the young practitioner; for, although the instrument was previously introduced dripping with oil, such was the heated, dry, and tender state of the canal, that the tube could not be passed without much difficulty, and occasioning great suffering. The expedient of first introducing a bougie covered with morphine ointment, to use the words of the patient, "made him quite in heaven." I need not occupy the valuable pages of the *Lancet* with the details of the medical treatment of this case: suffice it to state, that in this, as in instances of a like nature, anodyne enemata, according to my experience, are the most effectual palliatives.—*Lancet*.

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 BOSTON, JUNE 30, 1841.

DR. PATTISON'S INAUGURAL DISCOURSE.

In the New York Herald, of June 10th, may be found the entire discourse of Dr. Pattison on the occasion of a public inauguration of the newly-appointed medical faculty of the University of New York. There is a prodigious flourish of trumpets by way of a caption, probably an emanation from the brain of a reporter, beginning thus—" *Important era in the history of science in this country.*" We are surprised at the pomposity of Dr. Pattison's declaration, that "the birth of the medical department of the University of New York, is an event, therefore, in which every one of our citizens is deeply interested. It is one which will give, not only a scientific character to our city, but it is one which will have the effect of establishing between us and the most distant parts of our country, ties and relationships which will never afterwards be broken." This is about the same thing as saying that there has never been any system of medical education in New York, nor any institutions for teaching the principles of a science which has conferred so much benefit on mankind.

Dr. Pattison may rely upon having succeeded to a charm, by this unlucky paragraph, in raising up a phalanx of indomitable spirits that will never relinquish the hostility which this inaugural exhibition has developed, till he is driven as completely out of the country, as he was from a chair in the University of London. Go where he will, Dr. Pattison is a Jonah, who is necessarily thrown over-board to save a sinking ship—and we predict with confidence that there will be a good reason assigned for his resignation, long before the birth of another medical school in the city of New York "*will have the effect of establishing between us and the most distant part of our country, ties and relationships which will never afterwards be broken.*"

The orator over-dosed the occasion, and dealt in toad-eating far beyond what the importance of the event required. But he was evidently unwilling to forego an opportunity of such a rare occurrence to persuade all the world that the University was the centre of the globe, and the speaker the principal object of attraction. With regard to the other members of the faculty, several of whom we have the pleasure of knowing personally, they are gentlemen of high attainments, and will command the respect of respectable people the world over; but they are too wise not to perceive that there are other medical institutions that cannot be eclipsed by all the medical forces of the empire State, were they concentrated at a single point. Is Philadelphia to be blotted out of remembrance at a single blast from the lungs of Dr. Pattison? Another extract will apprise the reader of the character of the cabinet—a rare and almost unequalled collection is to be added:

"The beautiful and unique museum of Dr. Mott, the professor of surgery, may be considered the most interesting in the country, for there is embodied in it a history of the triumphs which that distinguished surgeon has realized in his profession. Here are to be seen the noble trophies of

his surgical skill; trophies which will secure to him who has won them a deathless reputation, and which have gained for his country, in Europe, a high and enviable distinction in the promotion and improvement of surgical science. Can a student, just commencing his studies, look on these preparations, and not have his mind fixed, by a noble enthusiasm and ambition to emulate him, who has furnished such evidence of the vast resources of surgical science; and as he listens to his lectures, in which he will hear the full history of these cases and the principles of surgery, which have guided their author in designing and accomplishing operations for the cure of diseases which, before he took up the subjects of them, were considered irremediable; and further, when he hears these principles of our science still further illustrated by all the facts and observations which his surgical professor's ripened experience enabled him to cull from opportunities of observation, never before offered to a surgeon in Europe. How can he fail to become inspired with a devotion to his profession? How can he fail from becoming an able and accomplished surgeon?

"The very beautiful collection of preparations belonging to Dr. Bedford, and which has for the last two years been deposited in the Museum of the Medical College, at Albany, will form part of the museum of the medical department of the University, as illustrative of the department which the Professor teaches. This collection is invaluable, and is unequalled in the richness and value of its specimens.

"As the largest part of the museum of the Jefferson Medical College, of Philadelphia, belongs to the professors of anatomy, and the practice of physic, who have been translated from that school to occupy the corresponding chairs in the medical department of the University of New York, this will come to form a great and valuable addition to the museum of the Institution. The museum of the medical department of the University of New York, will in fact be formed of their museums, and as daily additions are being made to it, so far as preparations can illustrate lectures, these will be abundantly provided by the faculty."

Dr. Mott's reputation will unquestionably be instrumental in gathering in a large number of pupils—but old and long-sustained schools will not be forsaken for the lecture rooms of the University.

Had it not been for the over-wrought and boasting assurance of the public inaugural address, at which men of the refinement and discernment of Drs. Payne and Revere must have been mortified, fewer words would have expressed all that would need to have been said of the University Medical School of New York.

U. S. Marine Hospital., Chelsea—On Saturday last, George W. Otis, Jr, M.D., of Boston, received the appointment of Surgeon of the Chelsea Marine Hospital, in the place of Dr. Stedman, and will very speedily enter upon the responsible duties of the office. Dr. Otis is well known to this community:—his professional attainments are of an order to warrant the highest expectations of those who have at heart the medical and surgical character of New England. By education at home, and all the advantages to be derived from visiting the great hospitals of Europe, together with the experience acquired in the former capacity of Assistant Surgeon in the Massachusetts General Hospital, we feel sure that he will sustain the place with satisfaction to the public and the best interests of the Institution. It would be an act of injustice towards Dr. Stedman, not to

speak of those professional qualifications which have enabled him, during the twelve years that he has been in office, to establish a reputation that will command the sustaining influence of a discriminating public, wherever he may go. In both of these gentlemen, the government has been exceedingly fortunate.

Aleppo Button.—The Rev. Mr. Thomson, a missionary residing in Syria, has transmitted to this country, through the *Missionary Herald* of the present month, an account of a singular disease well known in that country, which we do not recollect of having met with in any other publication. Mr. Thomson premises by remarking that Aleppo has the reputation of being a healthful residence. The air is cold in winter, and occasionally quite frosty. Neither lemons nor oranges succeed there, on account of the severity of the weather. Ice sometimes forms several inches in thickness. In summer the heat occasionally rises to 105 degrees of Fah. but is usually followed by a delightful evening breeze. The climate is regarded far superior in Aleppo to that in Beyroot.

A singular disease known to the foreign residents, as well as natives, greatly to be feared, is called the *Aleppo button*. It seems almost peculiar to that place; indeed, it is questionable whether it has ever been developed in any other place in all Syria. Both the nursing babe and the aged are alike the subjects of the malady. Although it may exist on any part of the body, the hands and face are commonly the seat of its development. Persons residing there, soon have the button—the natives rarely ever escape, although instances occur where the individual escapes its attack until many years after strangers have returned to their distant homes in other countries. Another singular fact about the Aleppo button, is the well-established one, that just one year is required to run its course—it is six months in coming and six more in fairly going off—and that with surprising regularity. Medical treatment seldom does any good, and it may do much injury. Another queer law regulating the Aleppo button is this, viz.: there is both a male and a female button. The male button is recognized by one scab, not very painful. On the contrary, the female button produces many sores or ulcers. By inoculation it is thought possible to produce either—the experiment having been repeatedly tried by one of the Pasha's doctors. If this should be subsequently verified, since all going into the city must sooner or later have the button, they may fix upon any locality on their own bodies which will incommode them the least. Some pretty faces have been sadly scarred by its painful inroads. Neither the cause or a certain and speedy mode of stopping the progress are known, yet it is believed by intelligent persons that some singular chemical condition of the water has an agency in the matter. However, at Antab, says Mr. Thomson, and at Bagdad, there is recognized a similar disease, varying perhaps only in the imagination of the suffering patient.

Collins's Midwifery.—Perhaps we are blamable for not having spoken of the re-publication, in a distinct form, of Collins's *Midwifery*, making the eleventh volume of the Library of Practical Medicine, published by order of the Massachusetts Medical Society, for the use of its fellows. Although liberally distributed, we are informed by the publisher, Mr. Ticknor, that he can accommodate medical gentleman who do not belong to the Association, with copies. Like every specimen of printing from

the press of Mr. T. R. Marvin, 24 Congress street, it is very neatly executed. It is a large-sized octavo of 320 pages, compactly arranged. Were not the character of this work generally known, a more minute description of it would have been given.

Operation for the Cure of Stammering.—A novel operation was performed by Dr. Schmidt, of Warren street, N. Y., early last week. It consisted in dividing the *genio* hyo-glossus muscle of a young man, who for eight years has been afflicted with stammering. No one has ever before attempted to give surgical aid of this kind, in America; and it remains to be proved whether any good will result from it. Dr. Mott honored the operator with his presence.

Health in Africa.—When the Brig Emily left Sierra Leone, May 11th, it was exceedingly sickly in that part of the country. Many deaths had occurred, and amongst the number, the Governor-general, Sir John Jeremie, who had been but a short time in Africa. It is almost impossible for white men of full, plethoric habit, to live through what is called a sickly season in that climate. Thin, spare people, of temperate habits, and not easily excited, resist all the bad atmospheric influences, it is thought, much longer than any other class of persons.

Extraction of a Prune-stone which had remained eleven days in the Air-passages. By M. BONNET, Surgeon to the Hotel Dieu, at Lyons.—The symptoms in this case were convulsive cough, with complete remissions. The cough increased in severity and continuance; and eleven days after the accident death appeared so imminent that the parents objected to an operation as useless. The chest was clear on percussion, but there was such an absence of the respiratory murmur as could only be attributed to some mechanical obstacle to the entrance of air into the lung. The signs of elevation and depression of the foreign body could not be recognized. The operation of tracheotomy was performed in the usual manner; but six ligatures had to be applied to vessels of the thyroid gland. The stone was removed by forceps, and complete recovery followed. The child was eleven years of age.—*Bulletin Générale de Therapeutique.—Brit. and Foreign Med. Review.*

Fibres in the Walls of the Gall-bladder. By M. BARTH.—M. Barth has presented to the Anatomical Society of Paris, a dilated gall-bladder, the walls of which offered very apparent fibres, interlaced, and having a great resemblance to muscular fibres.—*L'Expérience.—Ibid.*

MARRIED,—In West Feliciana, La., Dr. J. L. Donellan, to Miss C. C. Sargeant.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending June 26, 24.—Males, 13; Females, 11. Stillborn, 3. Of consumption, 7—disease of the hip-joint, 1—scarlet fever, 1—enlargement of the heart, 1—measles, 3—throat distemper, 1—hooping cough, 1—brain fever, 1—dropsy in the head, 1—diarrhoea, 1—infantile, 3—smallpox, 2—accidental, 1.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

CENSORS' MEETING.—There will be a stated meeting of the Censors for the First District and Society at large, at the house of Dr. John Jeffries, No. 9 Franklin street, Boston, on Wednesday, the 28th of July, 1841, at 4 o'clock, P.M.

Je 30—optm

JOHN JEFFRIES, Secretary.

NEW HAMPSHIRE MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

The annual course of Lectures in this Institution will commence on Thursday, the 5th of August next, and continue three months.

DIXIE CROSBY, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Obstetrics, and Diseases of Women and Children.

EDWARD E. FIELDS, M.D., Lecturer on Materia Medica, Medical Jurisprudence, and Medical Botany.

OLIVER F. HUBBARD, M.D., Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.

JOSEPH ROBY, M.D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine and Pathological Anatomy.

EDMUND R. FRASER, M.D., Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology.

Expenses for the course of lectures, \$50.00. Graduating, \$18. Matriculating, \$3.00. Board may be had at \$1.33 to \$2.00 per week, and abundant facilities for those who may wish to board themselves. The fees must be paid at the commencement of the term, or notes given with satisfactory security. All operations before the medical class are performed gratis. By order of the Faculty,

Dartmouth College, Hanover, June 15, 1841. Je 23—1A7 OLIVER F. HUBBARD, Sec'y.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

The annual course of Lectures for the session of 1841 and 42 will commence on the first Monday of November, 1841, and continue until the first of March, 1842.

J. AUGUSTINE SMITH, M.D., Prof. of Physiology.

ALEX. H. STEVENS, M.D., Emeritus Prof. of Surgery.

JOSEPH MATHER SMITH, M.D., Prof. of the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine.

JOHN B. BECK, M.D., Prof. of Materia Medica and Medical Jurisprudence.

JOHN TORREY, M.D., Prof. of Chemistry and Botany.

ROBERT WATTS, JR., M.D., Prof. of General, Special and Pathological Anatomy.

WILLARD PARKER, M.D., Prof. of the Principles and Practice of Surgery and Surgical Anatomy.

CHANDLER R. GILMAN, M.D., Prof. of Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children.

JAMES QUACKENBOSCH, M.D., Demonstrator of Anatomy.

Matriculation fee, \$5. Fee for the full course of lectures, \$108. Dissecting and Demonstration ticket, \$5. Graduation fee, \$25. Good board may be procured in this city for from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per week.

N. B.—A preliminary course of lectures will be delivered by the Faculty during the month of October, commencing on the first Monday. This course will be free to the students of the College. The dissecting rooms will be opened for the season on the first Monday of October.

New York, 15th June, 1841.

Je 23—eptf

BERKSHIRE MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

The annual course of Lectures will commence the first Thursday, 5th of August, 1841, and continue thirteen weeks. Fee for the whole course of lectures, \$50; fee for those who have attended two courses at any respectable medical school, \$10; graduation fee, \$18; library fee according to the number of books taken. Board, from \$1.50 to \$2.00.

Theory and Practice of Medicine and Obstetrics, by

H. H. CHILDS, D.D.

Principles and Practice of Surgery, by

FRANK H. HAMILTON, M.D.

Anatomy and Physiology, by

JAMES MCCLINTOCK, M.D.

General and Special Pathology, by

ALONZO CLARK, M.D.

Materia Medica and Pharmacy, by

M. A. LEE, M.D.

Chemistry, Botany, and Natural Philosophy, by

CHESTER DEWEY, M.D.

Demonstrator of Anatomy,

C. C. CHAFFEE, M.D.

Pittsfield, Mass., May, 1841.

Je 9—1L

PARKER HALL, Secretary.

DR. J. J. MOORMAN.

RESIDENT PHYSICIAN AT THE WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, VA.

MAY be consulted by persons at a distance, as to the propriety of using the *White Sulphur Water*, in particular diseases, &c. Communications, descriptive of the case, enclosing the ordinary fee of \$5, directed, post-paid, to Dr. M. at the White Sulphur Springs, Va., will be promptly responded to. October 23d, 1840. O. 28—1amtMcheoptO

THEODORE METCALF, APOTHECARY.

No. 33 Tremont Row, Boston, is sole agent for the sale of Bull's Philadelphia Gold Foil. He has also the largest assortment of mineral teeth to be found in New England. Together with turnkeys, forceps, drills, files, mirrors, platina, and almost every article used by dentists. English and American surgical instruments, in great variety.

Any instrument not in store, obtained to order at three days' notice.

Ap 7—6m

VACCINE VIRUS.

PHYSICIANS in any section of the United States can procure ten quills charged with PURE VACCINE VIRUS, by return mail, on addressing the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, enclosing one dollar, post paid, without which no letter will be taken from the post office. June 19

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